

August - October 2023



St. Jacob and St. John's Summerfield News and Notes

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. John's and St. Jacob,

A few weeks ago I had the honor of attending the UCC General Synod, the bi-yearly meeting of delegates from different conferences and churches across the United States. I met folks from Hawaii, Maine, Florida and Alaska, and I was able to reconnect with seminary friends serving local churches and non-profit organizations in nearly as wide a range of locations. There was certainly the business of the church which needed to be taken care of, and I became very well acquainted with my folding chair in the convention center hall, there was also time for workshops, learning, and discussions that filled my heart with excitement and hope, and my head with ideas for the future.

When I arrived home with all of that swirling in my heart and head, I wanted to immediately get started on no fewer than 10 different projects and events and get them all in motion NOW. But I also arrived home tired. I served as chaplain for a week at DuBois Center, returned home for a week, then off to General Synod for another week, and then I returned home with only two weeks to finish planning before we started our Vacation Bible School program. There is so much I want to do, and so much I need to do, and with so many wonderful ideas, how could I allow any of them to wait?

I had to take a step back.

One of the common refrains in the Psalms is the question, "How long, O Lord?" How long will it be before God intervenes in our struggles? How long before God answers our prayers? How long, because we can't wait. We show our impatience even in the Lord's Prayer... "Give us THIS DAY our daily bread." Please, Lord, don't make us wait for tomorrow.

But our timing is not God's timing.

We look at our world and at our own circumstances and we desire change. We can see it on the horizon and don't want to wait for it to arrive. We will work ourselves to exhaustion trying to make the change come more quickly, only to find that it's moving at God's speed and not our own. That's not to say that we don't have our part to play in making God's changes a reality here on earth, but it is important to remember we are not the ones in control. We are led by the Holy Spirit rather than trying to tell the Spirit when and how to lead us.

So, yes, I still have much swirling in my heart and head, and I am still very excited for where the future will take us, but I remember that it is God who will take us into that future, and it is our patience and willingness to follow God's plan that will help us get there.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 27

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three bundles of barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Ticket packets have been mailed out, and additional ticket packets are available on the table in the Narthx for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used to purchase a display case in the Upper Meeting Room. The drawing will be held immediately following worship on Aug. 27, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. You can drop your donation/tickets in the Barbeque safe in the foyer at church or mail them to the church office at: 207 West Main Street. St. Jacob, IL 62281.

ST. JACOB UCC HOSTS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AUG. 22

St. Jacob UCC will host a Red Cross blood drive from 1-5 p.m., Aug. 22 at Heritage Hall. The goal for the blood drive is 24 pints. You can schedule your appointment on-line at: RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StJacob or you may call the office at 618-644-2142.

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthx.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

With the inflation these past few months, use of local food pantries has been high, and donations have been low. To help our communities we have a donation tub/box for food pantry donations in the sanctuary at St. John's and St. Jacob.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Canned potatoes, chili, spam, canned ham, black eyed peas, breakfast bars, Pop-tarts, pineapple, pears, peaches, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, tomato paste, Vienna sausages, sauerkraut, spinach, pasta sides, egg noodles, chicken & dumplings, beef stew, dish soap, & laundry detergent

ST. JOHN'S NEWS & NOTES

This has been a wonderful summer of mission and ministry.

- We fully covered the cost for 3 children to attend DuBois Center summer camp and Pastor Phil served as a camp chaplain for a week.
- We worked in a joint effort with eight other churches and civic organizations in the Summerfield/Lebanon school district to provide summer lunches for school-age children. One of the pickup points was the Summerfield fire station and served 20-25 children each weekday.
- We collected donations and school supplies for Hoyleton Youth and Family Service's Back to School program.

We look forward to all of the mission and ministry opportunities this fall will bring.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUN FOR ALL AGES

Twenty-six kids and adults participated in the first day of the St. Jacob UCC and Troy Friedens UCC three-day Intergenerational Vacation Bible School held July 20 at St. Jacob Township Park. The other two days were held July 27 at Tri-Township Library, and Aug. 3 at Tri-Township Park. This Intergenerational Vacation Bible School was for everyone ages of 1-100-plus, and we explored the theme of the Greatest Commandment: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,"* and *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*





STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

The 2023 St. Jacob UCC Strawberry Festival cleared \$18,434 in profit thanks to the 100 volunteers who worked the event (not only on the day of the event, but also the planning and prepping for the event), the 17 sponsors and all of those in the community who supported the festival by purchasing raffle tickets and purchasing food at the event. The raffle brought in \$2,252, with 450 packets of tickets (plus two singles) sold. In addition to the great food and entertainment, there were 25 crafters at this year's event. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's festival such a success! It takes many people doing many different jobs to make the festival a success! **THANK YOU!** (For more photos, please visit our website at: <https://stjacobucc.org/catalogitem/2023strawberryfest/>)



CALENDAR

AUGUST

- August 6:** First Sunday of the month communion.
- August 6:** Holey Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's
- August 9:** Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.
- August 9-15:** Pastor Phil out of the office/vacation
- August 15:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- August 16:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- August 22:** **ARC Blood Drive**, 1-5 p.m., Heritage Hall
- August 27:** BBQ Meat Bonanza Drawing, following worship



SEPTEMBER

- September 3:** First Sunday of the month communion.
- September 3:** Holey Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's
- September 4:** **LABOR DAY**
- September 13:** Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.
- September 19:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- September 20:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 8 p.m.



OCTOBER

- October 1:** First Sunday of the month communion.
- October 1:** Holey Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's
- October 11:** Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.
- October 17:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- October 18:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 31:** **HALLOWEEN**



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August Dates

Pauline Laux, Aug. 3
Nancy McCaw, Aug. 22
Rusty Schiefer, Aug. 24

September Dates

Melinda & Rusty Schiefer, 40 years, Sept. 3
Paul Baer, Sept. 5

Don Koenig, Sept. 6
Larry Robison, Sept. 10
Ella Boggy, Sept. 14

October Dates

Charissa & John Hill, 31 years, Oct. 24
Denise & Paul Baer, 51 years, Oct. 27
Thomas McCaw, Oct. 28

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August Dates

Melody & Kevin Hollis, 23 years, Aug. 5
Charlie Kynion, Aug. 7
Paul Guse, Aug. 9
Susan Schmidt, Aug. 12
Carol & Steven Casperson, 48 years, Aug. 15
Steve May, Aug. 15
Ronda & Eric Schmidt, 25 years, Aug. 15
Marie & Gene Gansmann, 57 years, Aug. 21
Evagene Gusewelle, Aug. 23
Ron Rujawitz, Aug. 26
Carla Zobrist, Aug. 27
Robert Bittle, Aug. 29
Sophia Lowe, Aug. 29
Dawn Mersinger, Aug. 29
Myrna & George Anderson, 65 years, Aug. 30

September Dates

John Zweck, Sept. 1
Haylee Petchulat, Sept. 3
Diane & Sam Frey, 41 years, Sept. 4
Dianne Doll, Sept. 7
Karen Schultze, Sept. 11
Carol Kynion, Sept. 14
Don Hanser, Sept. 15
Audrey Yann, Sept. 18
Cathy Frutiger, Sept. 18

Amy Zbinden, Sept. 19
Cathy & Ken Frutiger, 50 years, Sept. 22
Richard Schmidt, Sept. 23
Audrey & Don Yann, 47 years, Sept. 25
Diane Frey, Sept. 28
Gina & Robert Willie, 25 years, Sept. 29
Don Yann, Sept. 29

October Dates

Stephanie & Todd Rehg, 26 years, Oct. 4
Marilyn Warren, Oct. 6
Kay & Paul Guse, 35 years, Oct. 8
Beth Hanser, Oct. 9
Kevin Hollis, Oct. 13
John Lowe, Oct. 13
Gail Miller, Oct. 13
Dash Zobrist, Oct. 15
Donna Lowe, Oct. 19
Carol & Onis Zweck, 50 years, Oct. 20
Rick Ritter, Oct. 21
Kaitlin Woods, Oct. 21
Mary Lowe, Oct. 22
Jerry Schmitt, Oct. 23
Mikayla Bloemker, Oct. 24
Troy Gansmann, Oct. 26
Kathy Ritter, Oct. 27
Madeleine Schmidt, Oct. 31

St. John's: Judy Chapman, Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Jeffrey Thornton, and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean

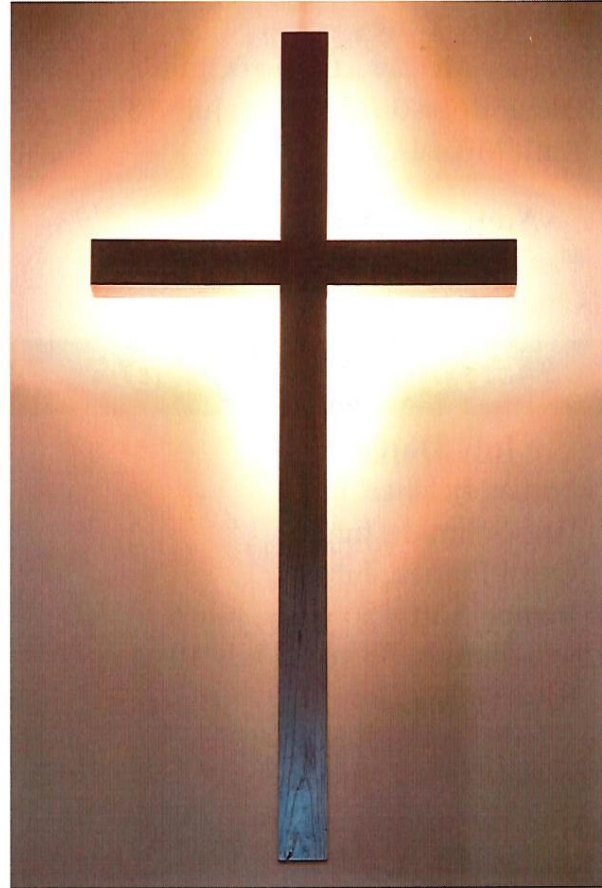
St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, and Carol Zweck

St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, IL 62281-1531

St. John United Church of Christ
109 West Kavanaugh
Summerfield, IL 62289

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Visit our Website:
<https://stjacobucc.org>



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ADDRESS SERVICE CORRECTION

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U S POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 6

Mailing address line 1